Constitution of Physiotherapy Council

513. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for constitution of Physiotherapy Council;

(b) if so, by when the said council would be constituted;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that despite 80,000 registered physiotherapists at various associations including regional council, no regulatory body has been constituted to look into the affairs; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) to (e) A Bill namely, 'Paramedical and Physiotherapy Central Councils Bill, 2007 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 04.12.2007 to constitute Paramedical and Physiotherapy Central Council and the same was referred to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare for its examination. Through the 31st report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare certain changes were suggested to be made. Meanwhile the bill lapsed with the dissolution of 14th Lok Sabha. Presently, there is no regulatory body at the Central level to look into the affairs of physiotherapists.

Spreading of HIN1 virus

514. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that H1NI virus has come to India mainly through foreigners;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any corrective measure to examine the foreign passengers at the airports; and

(c) the details of steps Government has taken to cure this virus-infected people?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Infection with pandemic influenza was first observed in Mexico in March, 2009 and subsequently spread to 206 countries across the globe, mainly through air travel including India.

Entry screening of passengers was started at all 22 international airports from 1st May, 2009. Twenty eight thermal imaging cameras were installed at seven airports (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Goa). Passengers from affected countries are subjected to temperature monitoring. On being suspected of having sign and symptoms of H1N1 flu, the patient is isolated and treated in dedicated health facilities attached to the airports. The contacts of such passengers are identified and provided preventive treatment.